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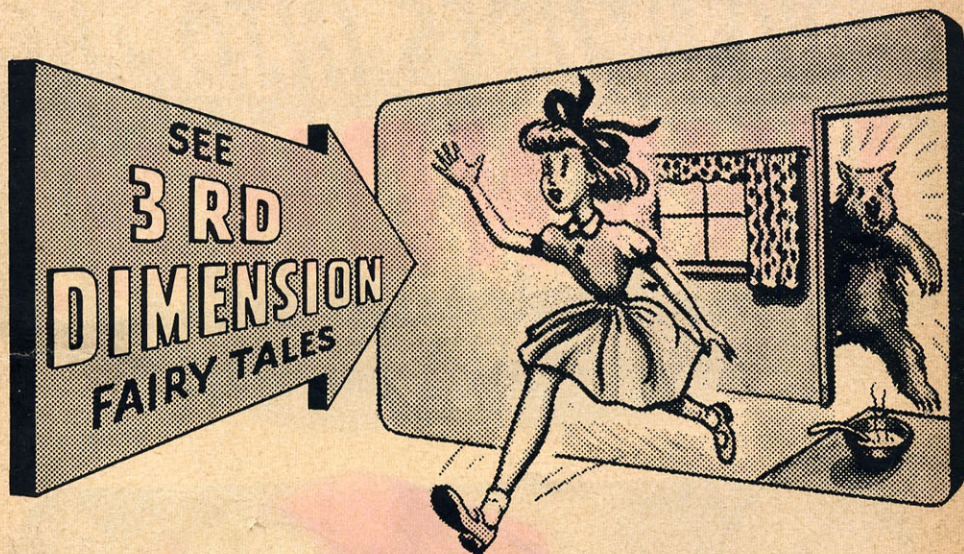
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ONCE HARRY WILLIAMS HAD BEEN A TOP-NOTCH WRITER OF WEIRD TALES  
 ...THE BEST! MANY WERE THE FEARFUL CREATURES HIS RICH IMAGINATION  
 HAD CREATED... BUT NONE SO AWFUL AS THOSE HE MET WHEN  
 FATE PLUNGED HIM INTO A LIVING...



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IT WASN'T EASY ANY LONGER; WRITING HAD  
BECOME A GRUELLING AND ARDUOUS TASK---

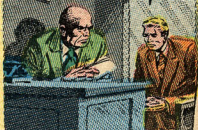


GROTESQUE  
TALES  
EDITORIAL  
OFFICE

I CAN'T BUY THESE  
STORIES, HARRY! THEY'RE  
TOO WEAK--OUR READ-  
ERS WANT **HORROR!**

... **MAKE 'EM  
GROTESQUE,  
HARRY!...  
GRUE-  
SOME!**

I'LL  
DO MY  
BEST--



THAT'S JUST IT, HARRY...YOUR BEST  
HASN'T BEEN **GOOD** ENOUGH  
LATELY! YOU'D BETTER  
IMPROVE OR YOU'RE  
**THROUGH!**



WHEN HARRY TRUDGED HOME TO HIS WIFE, GILDA---

LIKE THIS CUTE DRESS I  
BOUGHT, DARLING? IT COST MY  
WHOLE WEEK'S ALLOWANCE---  
BUT IT WAS WORTH IT!

THEN I-I  
SUPPOSE  
YOU'LL NEED  
SOME MORE  
MONEY---



YOU'RE SUCH A DEAR,  
HARRY--SO GENEROUS! I  
KNOW YOU WON'T FORGET MY  
**BIRTHDAY** NEXT WEEK  
---I'M EXPECTING  
SOMETHING REAL-  
LY **NICE!**

I'LL  
REMEMBER,  
DEAR---

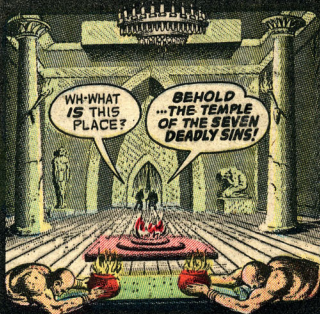
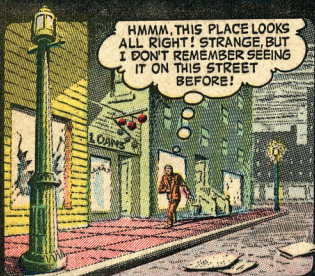


I CAN'T HELP LOVING HER---EVEN  
THOUGH SHE SEEMS TO THINK OF  
NO ONE BUT HERSELF! HOW CAN  
I TELL HER I'M BROKE? I'LL  
HAVE TO PAWN THIS WATCH  
MY FATHER  
LEFT ME---



DESPERATE TO KEEP HIS FLIGHT A SECRET FROM GILDA,  
HARRY WENT TO A REMOTE PART OF TOWN---

AND WHEN HE ENTERED THE DINSY PAWNSHOP...





GREAT GUNS---  
TH- THEY'RE **HORRIBLE!**  
WORSE THAN ANY-  
THING I'VE  
EVER IMAGINED!



THAT IS THE **GHOUL!**  
TO HIM BELONG THE HUMANS  
WHO COMMIT THE DEADLY  
SIN OF **SLOTH!** GO WITH  
HIM---**WATCH** HIM---  
THEN **WRITE**  
ABOUT IT!

I-I KNOW  
I SHOULDN'T  
--- **BUT I**  
**CAN'T**  
**RESIST!**

IN SILENCE, THROUGH THE DARK AND  
DISMAL STREETS, HARRY FOLLOWED THE GHOUL, UNTIL---



THIS IS  
THE PLACE  
I SEEK!



AND THIS  
IS THE GRAVE  
I SEEK!

IT--IT'S  
**UNBELIEVABLE!**



AND THIS IS THE  
**SLOTHFUL** ONE I  
SEEK! HE WILL REST  
NO MORE!

NO...  
NO!

IN MAD PANIC, HARRY DASHED HOME---BUT  
WROTE DOWN WHAT HE SAW! THE NEXT DAY---



THIS YARN'S **GREAT**, HARRY---I'LL PAY  
YOU TOP PRICE FOR IT! I DON'T CARE  
HOW YOU GET YOUR IDEAS, BUT I  
WANT **MORE**---AND MAKE 'EM  
**GRUESOME! MORE**  
**GRUESOME!**

M-MORE?

THAT NIGHT, HARRY'S STEPS LED HIM AGAIN TO THE DINGY LITTLE PAWNSHOP...

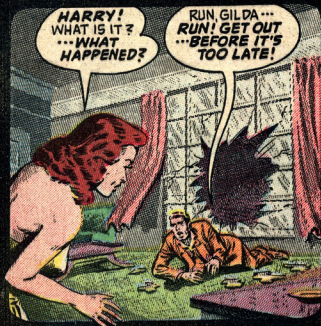


RUSHING HOME, HARRY PLEADED WITH GILDA...



AND SO, ONCE AGAIN, HARRY WROTE OF HIS STRANGE ADVENTURES! AND AGAIN, LATE THAT NIGHT...





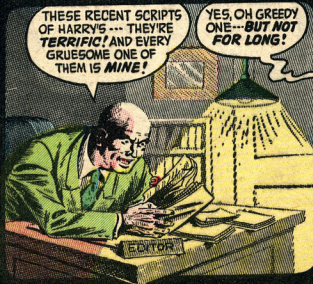


AFTER HARRY TOLD GILDA THE WHOLE STORY...



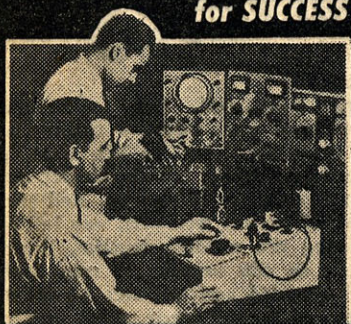


AT THAT MOMENT, IN ANOTHER PART OF TOWN...

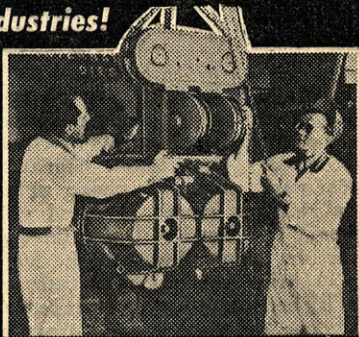


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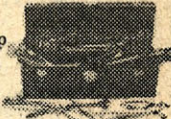
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ALWAYS  
WANTED!**

# DEATH *has* FOUR FINGERS

**H**UNGARY, IN THE 18th century, was a cruel land, groaning beneath the heels of landed nobles. And of these, none was crueler than Baron Cigani, whose lands were wide and whose many serfs knew what it meant to dread a savage master. Two hundred years have passed since the baron died...but the manner of his passing was such as must be told.

It ill befitted a serf to be independent...but young Jan Manorik came pretty near it. He had a fierce, burning pride which made it hard for him to kneel before any man, but this was the type of homage which Baron Cigani required of his vassals. And so it happened that when the baron rode past a group of peasants near his castle one day, only one refused to drop into the dust of the road...and that one was Jan. And he paid dearly for his crime, being dragged to the castle by the men-at-arms, tied to a ring in the wall of the torture chamber and lashed until red welts crisscrossed his entire back.

Needless to say, the baron was an eager watcher...he never let an opportunity like this slip by! And when Jan, finally released, collapsed onto the floor in semi-consciousness, he was kicked into a red mist of pain by the noble's booted foot. Dimly, he heard the arrogant tones inquiring as to whether he was ready to kneel now. It was an effort to open his eyes and stagger to his feet, but his spirit wasn't broken yet. "I'll never...kneel...to any man!" he gasped.

"Apparently he's determined to give me sport," said the baron coldly. "I haven't heard him cry out yet...but now he's going to!" And he was right. The man doesn't live who can, silent, withstand the awful shock of having a finger torn from his hand...and Jan was no exception. "You'll kneel now," gritted the baron, "and you'll beg for mercy like the dog you are!"

But this time, the noble was wrong. For here was a serf who would neither grovel nor beg. Instead, the tortured man's hand lashed out, meeting Cigani's face with terrific impact. And for this, he was denied the blessing of a merciful death. For this, he knew the torture of the rack, which left him a groaning hulk. But there was more to come yet. "The hand with which he struck me," the baron mouthed.

*"Strike it off!"*

The axe rose...fell. And Jan's right hand...the hand from which a finger had already been torn...lay at his side, a strange-looking object which almost appeared to have a life of its own. And Jan, his life-blood welling from him, was left to die. Leaving the torture chamber, Baron Cigani felt an odd impulse to turn, look upon the wounded serf. He met, a gaze of burning hatred, heard words which burned into his very soul. "I'm going...fast," came the halting gasp. "But I'll...I'll be back! Death itself can't halt...my revenge! You'll perish...with my hand on your throat!"

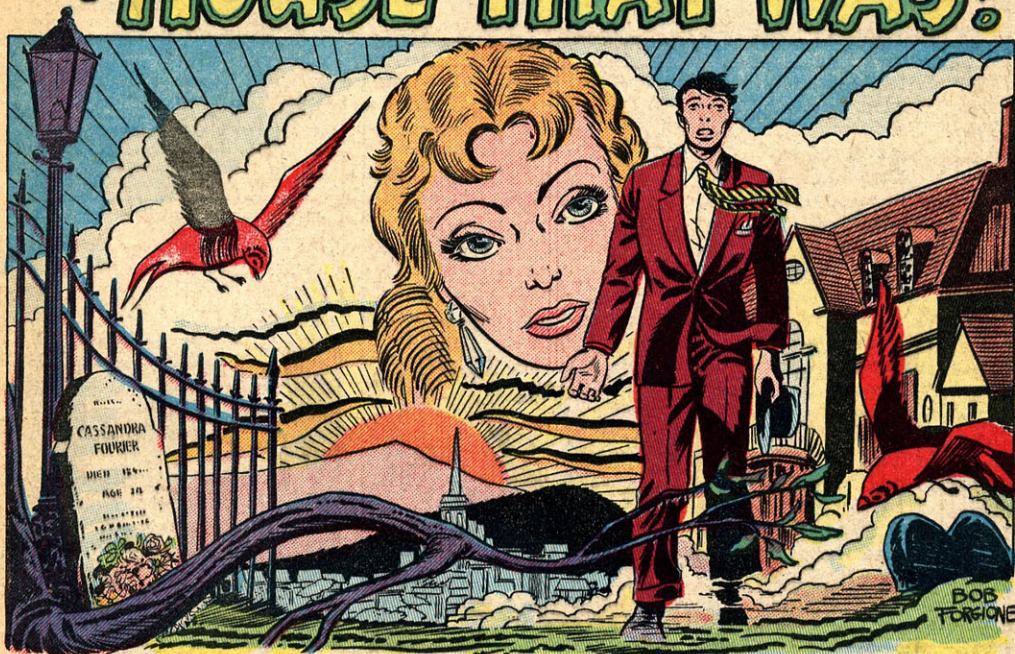
That was all. Just a last gasp...then stillness. "Throw the oaf underground," the baron said coldly. "And throw that wretched hand after him!"

It was done, and immediately. Baron Cigani went about his business. Really, there was no reason for nervousness on his part. Who cared about a miserable wretch of a peasant, or the empty threats he spoke? But that night, sleep was slow in coming to the peer. The very darkness of the room seemed peopled by strange whispers, ominous creakings. The baron knew it was ridiculous, but he couldn't help himself. He kept on hearing, as in an echo from a distant world, the words, "I'll be back! You'll perish...with my hand on your throat!" Imagination...that's all it was! But wait a second...that shadow which detached itself from the darkness of the room...that wasn't imagination! The baron watched in fearful fascination as it seemed to hop grotesquely across the room towards him...nearer...nearer! Then suddenly, his eyes widened with a terrible horror...for he knew what the weird object was! A scream gathered in his throat...but it was too late! It was at the side of the bed now...off the floor...and at his windpipe! There was a short, bulging-eyed struggle, that was all. And then, utter silence...the silence of death!

So it was that the manner of Baron Cigani's passing created a great stir in Hungary. Death...death by asphyxiation...in a room where both doors and windows were locked. And on his throat, the marks of some giant strength from out of this world...some strange, unearthly being...with four fingers.

AT LAST HE HAD WON HER, THE BEAUTIFUL **CASS FOURIER!** TENDERLY, LOVINGLY HE EMBRACED HER, NEVER DREAMING OF THE GHOULISH JEST THAT WAS BEING PLAYED ON HIM! FOR HOW COULD MORTAL MAN IMAGINE THE STRANGE SECRET OF ---

# The HOUSE THAT WAS!



**LEESVILLE** WAS AN EERIE, SHADOW-HAUNTED RUIN OF A TOWN! FROM THE DAY GIL HASSON ARRIVED THERE, HE WAS REPELLED, YET FASCINATED BY WHAT HE SAW..

THIS AIR OF DECAY--IT'S STIFLING! IT'S LIKE WORKING IN A **GRAVEYARD!** IF IT WASN'T FOR THE MONEY THAT TRAVEL MAGAZINE IS PAYING ME FOR THESE SKETCHES, I'D DROP THE WHOLE BUSINESS!



AND YET THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT THESE CRUMBLING OLD MANSIONS AND THE MOSS-HUNG TREES THAT **FASCINATES** ME! THERE'S A WORLD OF COLOR HERE--IF I CAN CAPTURE IT!



**IT WAS DURING HIS FIRST WEEK IN LEESVILLE THAT HASSON FIRST VENTURED DOWN THAT MYSTERIOUS ROAD ON THE EDGE OF TOWN! WITH HIS FIRST STEP, A WARNING VOICE HAILED HIM---**

NOTHIN' MUCH DOWN THAT ROAD BUT A LOT OF **RUINS!** I WOULDN'T BOTHER GOIN' DOWN **THAT** WAY IF I WAS YOU, MR. HASSON!

THANKS FOR THE TIP, MR. KENT, BUT I THINK I'LL GO ANYHOW! I MAY FIND SOMETHING WORTH SKETCHING!





THERE WAS AN ODDLY CAUTIONING NOTE IN THE POSTMAN'S VOICE--BUT GIL CHOSE TO IGNORE IT! A FEW MOMENTS LATER--

DID HE SAY RUINS? I GUESS OLD KENT HAD HIS ROADS MIXED UP!



THAT GIRL! SHE'S STARTLINGLY BEAUTIFUL! I MUST GET HER TO POSE FOR ME!



EXCUSE ME--I'M GIL HASSON, AN ARTIST! YOU LOOK SO CHARMING AMONG THOSE FLOWERS... I WONDER IF YOU'D LET ME SKETCH YOU, MISS----ER--

MISS FOURIER--  
**CASSANDRA FOURIER!**

AND AFTER SUCH A LOVELY COMPLIMENT, HOW COULD I REFUSE YOUR REQUEST?



SHE WAS THE IMAGE OF LOVELINESS AND CHARM, AND YET EVEN AS HE SKETCHED HER, HER BEAUTY SEEMED TO SHIMMER, TO BECOME A THING UNREAL! BUT AT LAST THE DRAWING WAS FINISHED--

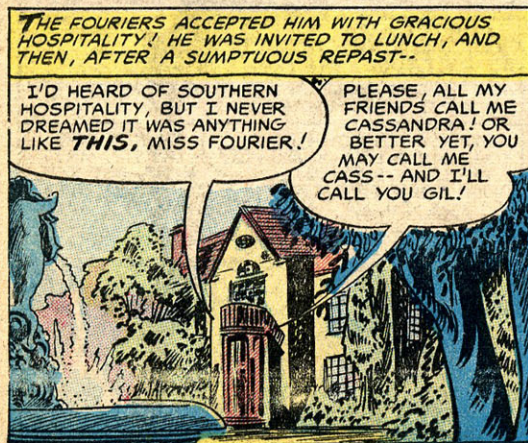
WHY, THAT'S BEAUTIFULLY DONE, MR. HASSON! YOU MUST BRING IT UP TO THE HOUSE--I KNOW MOTHER AND DAD WOULD LOVE TO SEE IT!

I'D BE DELIGHTED TO COME!



MR. HASSON, I WANT YOU TO MEET MY FATHER, MR. HENRI FOURIER--AND MY MOTHER, MADELENE FOURIER!

WE ARE DELIGHTED TO WELCOME YOU, SIR!



THE FOURIERS ACCEPTED HIM WITH GRACIOUS HOSPITALITY! HE WAS INVITED TO LUNCH, AND THEN, AFTER A SUMPTUOUS REPAST--

I'D HEARD OF SOUTHERN HOSPITALITY, BUT I NEVER DREAMED IT WAS ANYTHING LIKE **THIS**, MISS FOURIER!

PLEASE, ALL MY FRIENDS CALL ME CASSANDRA! OR BETTER YET, YOU MAY CALL ME CASS--AND I'LL CALL YOU GIL!



AND YOU MUST COME AGAIN SOON! IT'S SO LONELY UP HERE! NO ONE EVER COMES TO VISIT US!

I'D BE DELIGHTED TO VISIT YOU AGAIN, CASS!

THAT'S A STRANGE REMARK! THE FOURIERS ARE THE MOST CHARMING PEOPLE I'VE MET IN YEARS! WHY SHOULDN'T THEY HAVE ANY VISITORS? AND CASS-- SHE SHOULD HAVE A DOZEN BEAUX HANGING AROUND HER DOORSTEP!



A MOMENT LATER, HIS VAGUE UNEASINESS INCREASED ---

HOW ODD! I JUST HAD A SPLENDID LUNCH, AND YET I'M RAVENOUSLY HUNGRY! IT'S AS IF I HADN'T EATEN ANYTHING AT ALL!



THEN, SUDDENLY--

THE MANSION! IT'S **GONE!** ALL I CAN SEE ARE THOSE OLD **RUINS!** I-I GUESS I MUST HAVE TURNED A BEND IN THE ROAD---



IT WAS THE NEXT DAY, IN LEESVILLE, THAT GIL MET THE OLD POSTMAN AGAIN! HALF IN JEST, HE MENTIONED HIS VISIT TO THE FOURIER MANSION! THE MAY BEFORE HIM WENT WHITE WITH FEAR!

A M-MANSION?! BUT I TELL YOU THERE ARE ONLY **RUINS** UP THAT ROAD! YOU MUST BE MISTAKEN!



MISTAKEN, AM I? I'LL SHOW YOU A SKETCH OF A LADY I MET THERE... A MISS FOURIER!



THAT'S S--**STRANGE!** I COULD HAVE **SWORN** THAT SKETCH OF CASS WAS ON THE FIRST PAGE OF THIS PAD! BUT IT'S **GONE!**

EXCUSE ME, MR. HASSON! I-- I'VE GOT TO GO NOW!



ONCE MORE, GIL DISMISSED IT ALL AS AN EERIE COINCIDENCE! IN THE WEEKS THAT FOLLOWED, HE BECAME A CONSTANT VISITOR AT THE FOURIER MANSION! BUT TIME AND AGAIN, THERE WERE VAGUE HINTS, VEILED WARNINGS FROM THE LOCAL TOWNSFOLK--

NOW, MR. HASSON, YOU'RE JUST A VISITOR IN LEESVILLE! THERE'S A LOT YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT THIS TOWN! I TELL YOU THERE ARE ONLY SOME OLD RUINS ON THAT ROAD!

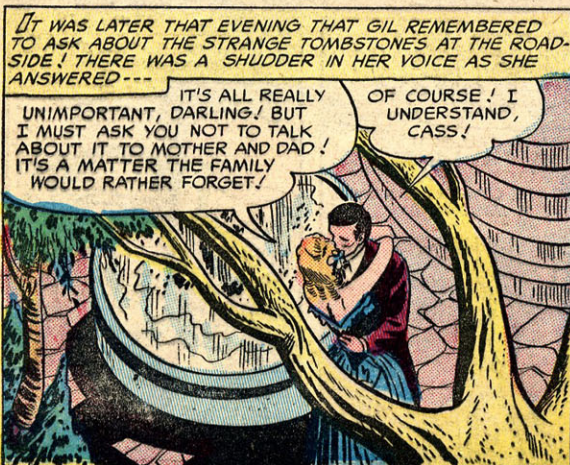


BUT I TELL YOU THERE'S A **MANSION** THERE! I WAS A GUEST OF THE OWNER! I SAW WITH MY OWN EYES!--

JUST THE SAME, YOU CAN'T ALWAYS BELIEVE WHAT YOUR EYES SEE! A WORD TO THE WISE, MY FRIEND--

I WONDER WHAT HE'S HINTING AT?





**BUT EVEN AS SHE CLUNG TO HIM, THE FEAR AND DREAD IN HER VOICE WERE AS THINGS ALIVE! THAT NIGHT, GIL WENT HOME WITH CURIOSITY GNAWING AT HIM, AND THE NEXT AFTERNOON FOUND HIM SEARCHING THE RECORDS IN THE LEESVILLE COURTHOUSE ---**

HERE WE ARE -- THE RECORDS OF THE FOURIER PROPERTY! IT--IT SAYS NO TAXES HAVE BEEN PAID IN **FIFTY YEARS!** GOOD HEAVENS, THAT **CAN'T** BE TRUE!



**BUT IN THE LOCAL LIBRARY, GIL FOUND THE MACABRE FACTS CONFIRMED!**

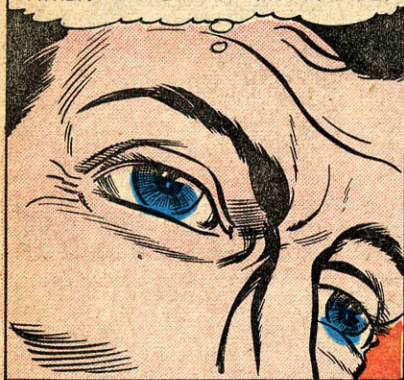
THE FOURIER MANSION WAS BURNED TO THE GROUND FIFTY YEARS AGO-- THE FIRE KILLED HENRI FOURIER, HIS WIFE MADELENE AND THEIR DAUGHTER CASSANDRA! **AND THE FOURIERS LEFT NO SURVIVORS!**



IT'S ALL TOO GROTESQUE TO MAKE SENSE! THERE **MUST** BE SOME LOGICAL EXPLANATION! I--I'LL SPEAK TO CASS AND HER PARENTS TONIGHT!



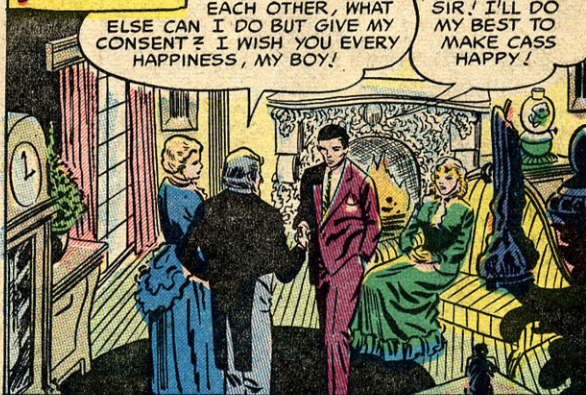
YES, **TONIGHT!** AFTER I ASK HER FATHER FOR HER HAND IN MARRIAGE!



**THAT NIGHT--**

SINCE YOU LOVE EACH OTHER, WHAT ELSE CAN I DO BUT GIVE MY CONSENT? I WISH YOU EVERY HAPPINESS, MY BOY!

THANK YOU, SIR! I'LL DO MY BEST TO MAKE CASS HAPPY!



**[I]T WAS TOWARD THE EVENING'S END THAT GIL SPOKE OF THE EERIE FACTS HE HAD LEARNED THAT DAY! WHY DID THEY ALL SEEM TO RECOIL-- AS IF IN DREAD?**

--BUT I CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHY THE RECORDS SHOULD SHOW THAT THE FOURIER MANSION WAS DESTROYED AND NEVER REBUILT! AND WHY SHOULD THAT OLD NEWSPAPER SAY THAT YOUR FAMILY LEFT **NO SURVIVORS?**

GIL, HOW **COULD** YOU? I **BEGGED** YOU NOT TO TALK OF THESE MATTERS!



MUST YOU SEARCH AND PRY TO SEE IF THE FOURIERS ARE STILL ALIVE? LOOK AT **ME!** AM I NOT REAL ENOUGH FOR YOU? HAS OUR LOVE NO REALITY EITHER?

CASS, YOU'RE UNNERVED! I'M SORRY I BROUGHT IT UP-- I'LL FORGET IT ALL--



AND THEN SUDDENLY, HORRIBLY, GIL CAUGHT SIGHT OF THE MIRROR ON THE WALL! A MIRROR WHICH SHOWED--

CASS! YOU AND YOUR PARENTS AREN'T REFLECTED IN THE GLASS! I-I'M TALKING TO MYSELF!



I UNDERSTAND IT ALL NOW! YOU'RE **UNREAL**, ALL OF YOU! YOU'RE **NOT ALIVE**-- THAT'S WHY YOU HAVE NO REFLECTIONS!

GIL, DON'T SAY THAT! DON'T!



HALF MAD WITH FEAR HE BABBLED ON, HIS MIND HARDLY GRASPING THE GHASTLY SCENE BEFORE HIM--

NOW I KNOW WHY EVERYONE WARNED ME NOT TO COME HERE! YOU'RE **GHOSTS!** THE GHOSTS OF THE PEOPLE WHO DIED HERE FIFTY YEARS AGO!

GIL, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? YOUR EVERY WORD IS DESTROYING US!



GOODBYE, GIL... MY DARLING!

SHE **VANISHED**-- BEFORE MY EYES!



THE MANSION -- **IT'S GONE!** IT WAS ALL SOME-- HORRIBLE DREAM--

A DREAM? **NO!** IT WAS SOMETHING MORE THAN THAT! LOOK-- THE IVORY FAN AND THE CAMELIA CASS ALWAYS WORE...



GOODBYE, MY DARLING-- **GOODBYE!** I'VE LOST YOU FOREVER--



THE END

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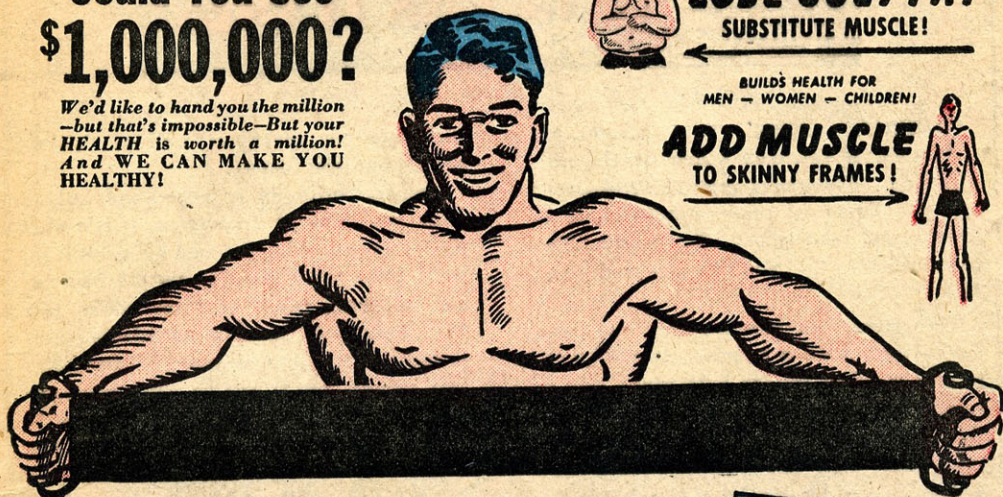
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HIP POCKET GYM works by putting Nature on your team. Using scientific and medical principles, it helps the body to help itself by giving the body just the right amount of exercise it requires! HIP POCKET GYM automatically adjusts to your strength and ability! You do not have to be Mr. America — even children can use it! A few minutes a day may lengthen your life and give you the power to BE A MAN AMONG MEN!

### ★ SO SIMPLE! SO EASY! No nailing on walls—No crawling on floors! No swinging from ceilings—no lengthy correspondence courses! A few minutes a day in a lazy man's way ride you of that run-down, tired feeling — gives you the PEP and FORCE OF PERSONALITY to forge ahead to SUCCESS!

### ★ RECOMMENDED BY OVER A HALF MILLION PEOPLE! The HIP POCKET Method of Body Building has been so successful that a vast loyal multitude of hundreds of thousands of users has been built during the past 25 years by word of mouth and recommendation WITHOUT ONE WORD OF ADVERTISING!

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EDITOR



**T**HERE'S NEWS THIS month...big news! It concerns a new development affecting "Adventures Into The Unknown" and its hosts of readers from coast to coast and throughout the world. The development? You've guessed it... 3D!

Throughout its history, this magazine has always been a pioneer. As you know, it was the first comics publication ever to specialize in the thrilling supernatural. It did so only after extensive research into just what the public wanted...and we've gone in for similar research into the matter of 3-Dimension comics. We've moved carefully, not wishing to rush in until we had investigated every type of extra-dimensional effect. This because we felt that our readers deserved the best! We found that the usual type which required the use of cumbersome and artificial glasses, was definitely hard to read. This, we feel, has been overcome in the new and astonishing system which we developed...Truevision. Truevision gives a three-dimensional effect in full, brilliant color...an effect so thrillingly lifelike as to amaze you...and does so *without* glasses! For evidence of this startling

fact, see our cover...as well as "Nightmare", our first feature!

Please, write us at once, and tell us what you think of Truevision. If it's what you've been looking for, and we think it is, we'll make every effort to run the whole of our following issue of "Adventures Into The Unknown" in this astonishing new technique that brings true-life dimension into comics. But it will be your choice, so let us hear from you! Address your letter to The Editor, "Adventures Into The Unknown", 45 West 45th Street, New York 36, N. Y. And, while you're at it, tell us what you think of our current issue! We're positive that you'll find "Nightmare", our Truevision feature, as exciting a supernatural thriller as ever you've read. "The House That Was" is a challenging, eerie feature with shocking impact. "Death Mask" tells a fastpaced and suspenseful story that's guaranteed to intrigue...and "The Monster" is a good, old-fashioned yarn that deals with a ghastly creature from out of the Unknown in a new way!

That's that...and remember, we're waiting for your letter! And in case you want to know...here's what some of our other readers are saying!

"Dear Editor:-

*I've been reading comics for years, but never knew how great one could be until just about a year ago, when I happened on 'Adventures Into The Unknown'. Since then, I haven't missed an issue, and can't wait for each new one to come out. Congratulations!*

*--M. Friesen, Coloma, Mich."*

"Dear Editor:-

*I like 'Adventures Into The Unknown' because it doesn't put on a freak show, like other horror comics. It doesn't have to...not while it carries such wonderful stories!*

*--Thomas Waitkevicius, Chicago, Ill."*

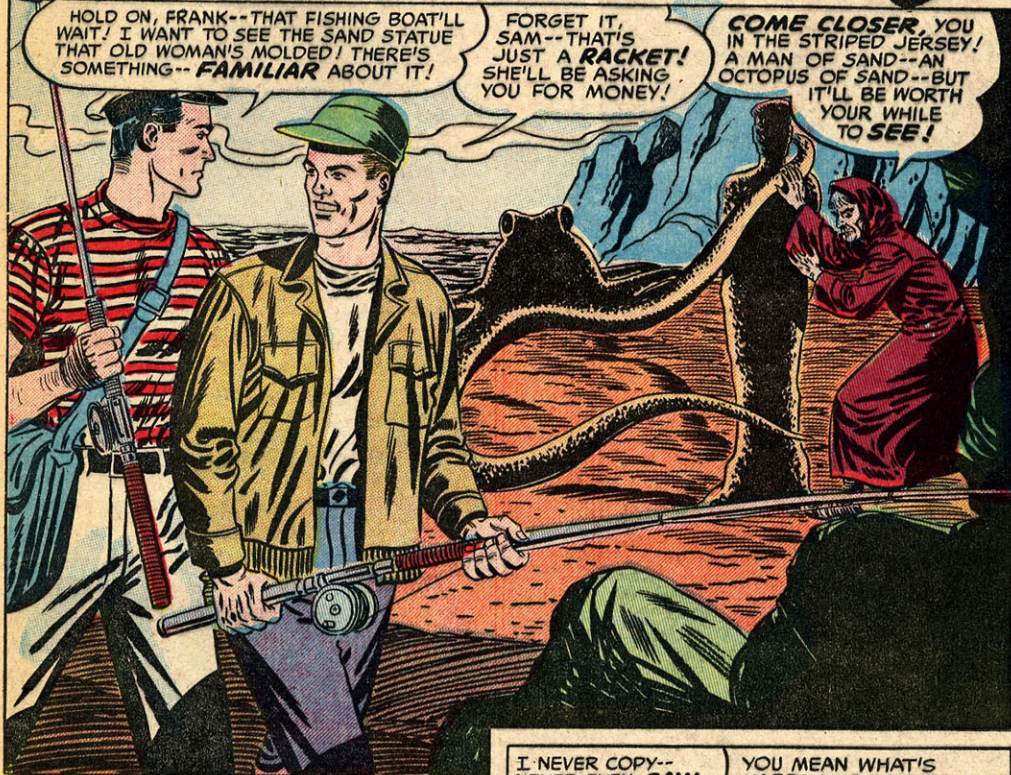
"Dear Editor:-

*'Adventures Into The Unknown' is the best supernatural comic in the world. Your stories and art are great! Keep up the good work!*

*--Philip Chase, Lantana, Fla."*

MANY AND WEIRD ARE THE STRANGE STORIES OF THE SEA--BUT NONE WEIRDER THAN THE TENSE ACCOUNT OF THE MAN WHO BARGAINED WITH THE FATES TO CHANGE HIS OWN DESTINY! **SAM DENTON** WAS THE MAN--AND HE OWED HIS LIFE TO A FAMILIAR FACE THAT WAS HIS OWN...

# DEATH MASK!



HOLD ON, FRANK--THAT FISHING BOAT'LL WAIT! I WANT TO SEE THE SAND STATUE THAT OLD WOMAN'S MOLDED! THERE'S SOMETHING--**FAMILIAR** ABOUT IT!

FORGET IT, SAM--THAT'S JUST A **RACKET!** SHE'LL BE ASKING YOU FOR MONEY!

**COME CLOSER, YOU IN THE STRIPED JERSEY! A MAN OF SAND--AN OCTOPUS OF SAND--BUT IT'LL BE WORTH YOUR WHILE TO SEE!**



**WHAT THE---!** THAT STATUE --IT'S GOT MY FACE! WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY COPYING ME, YOU OLD WITCH?

I NEVER COPY-- NEVER EVEN **SAW** YOU BEFORE! THE **SEA** SHOWED ME YOUR PICTURE, TOLD ME WHAT WILL HAPPEN THERE! AND THE SEA NEVER LIES--**NEVER!**

YOU MEAN WHAT'S HAPPENING TO THAT MAN IN THE STATUE--WITH THE OCTOPUS--IS GOING TO HAPPEN TO **ME?**





OH, STOP THIS NONSENSE AND LET'S GET MOVING! I TELL YOU SHE'S A **FAKE!**

WAIT A MINUTE! SHE'S ANSWERING MY QUESTION!

THE MAN OF THE STATUE MUST **DIE**-- BUT I CAN CHANGE THE FACE! I'LL DO IT--FOR A BIT OF GOLD!



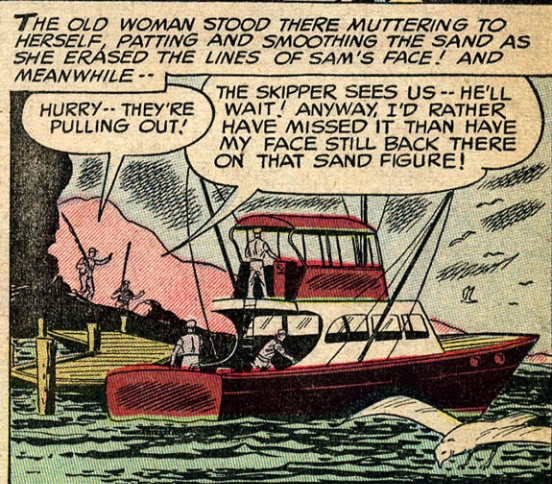
IT WAS RIDICULOUS-- BUT SOME INNER COMPULSION MADE SAM ACCEDE--

HERE, TAKE THIS RING--IT'S THE ONLY GOLD THING I'VE GOT! AND DON'T FORGET YOUR PROMISE!

I **NEVER** FORGET! AND BEFORE THE DAY IS OVER, YOU WON'T BE SORRY YOU GAVE IT TO ME!



BEFORE I MAKE THE CHANGE, I'LL WHISPER MY SECRET TO THE SEA AND LEARN WHAT FACE I MUST CARVE! NO, THAT YOUNG MAN WILL NEVER REGRET GIVING ME HIS RING-- **NEVER!**



HURRY-- THEY'RE PULLING OUT!

THE SKIPPER SEES US-- HE'LL WAIT! ANYWAY, I'D RATHER HAVE MISSED IT THAN HAVE MY FACE STILL BACK THERE ON THAT SAND FIGURE!



YOU GAVE HER YOUR RING, DIDN'T YOU? YOU'RE A SUCKER! I NEVER DREAMED YOU'D FALL FOR THAT SUPERSTITIOUS NONSENSE!

LAUGH IF YOU WANT-- BUT THERE WAS SOMETHING ABOUT HER THAT MADE ME FEEL SHE WAS TELLING THE **TRUTH!**



LOOK AT HER NOW-- WADING INTO THE WATER! NOW SHE'S **THROWING** SOMETHING FROM THE GLINT, I'D SAY IT WAS MY **RING!**

TOSSING IT INTO THE WATER-- SHE **MUST** BE CRAZY! FORGET IT-- WE CAME OUT HERE TO **FISH**, NOT WORRY ABOUT AN OLD BEACH COMBER!



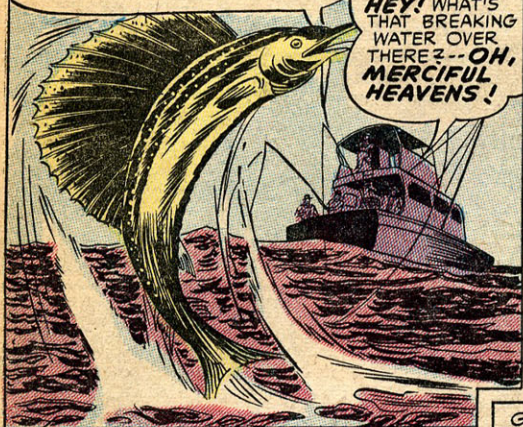
BUT THE OLD WOMAN HAD PAID HER GOLD TO THE SEA--AND IN RETURN--

GIVE ME ANOTHER FACE TO TAKE THE PLACE OF HIM WHO PAID, OH SEA! AH-- I SEE IT NOW! THE **NEW FACE--I'LL MODEL IT AT ONCE!**

**HOURS PASSED! THE FISH WERE BITING WELL THAT DAY--**

YOU'VE GOT HIM  
HOOKED, SAM! MAYBE THAT OLD  
DAME BROUGHT YOU **LUCK!**

HOPE I CAN  
SAY THE SAME  
FOR YOU!--  
**HEY!** WHAT'S  
THAT BREAKING  
WATER OVER  
THERE?--**OH,  
MERCIFUL  
HEAVENS!**



LOOK AT THE SIZE OF  
THAT TENTACLE--AND  
IT'S **GOT** US! WE'LL  
BE **SWAMPED!** CURSE  
THAT OLD HAG--**SHE**  
DID THAT TO US!

IT--IT **IS** EXACTLY  
LIKE THE OCTOPUS  
IN HER STATUE!  
KEEP CLOSE TO ME,  
FRANK--**WE'RE  
GOING OVER!**



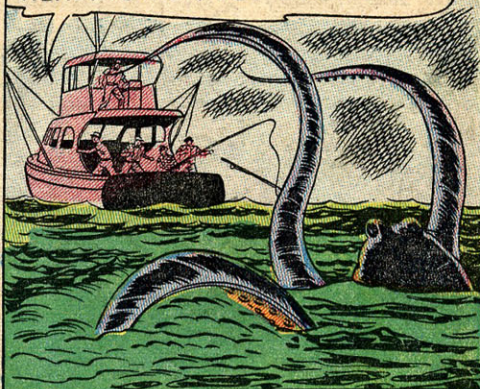
**AND WELL HE MIGHT! FOR EVEN THEN, THE  
GIANT CREATURE WAS SURFACING ONCE  
MORE-- HEADING FOR THE ATTACK--**



**--AND CHOOSING ITS VICTIM--IT STRUCK!**

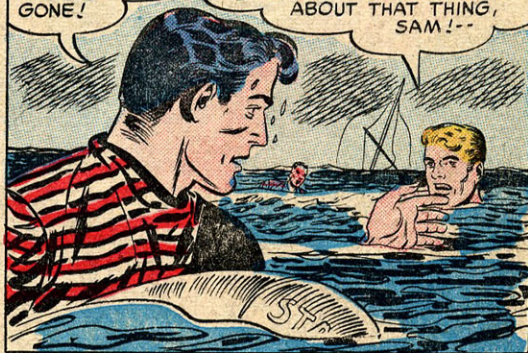
**THERE IT WAS--LIKE SOME MONSTROUS  
CREATION OUT OF A NIGHTMARE--**

**A GIANT OCTOPUS--AND IT'S  
HEADING FOR US! LOOK OUT!**



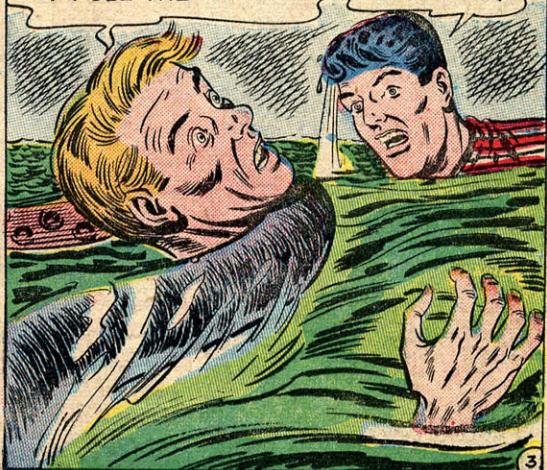
GRAB HOLD OF MY  
HAND, AND DON'T  
WORRY! THAT  
THING'S  
GONE!

BUT--BUT JUST SUPPOSE  
IT'S LURKING BELOW--  
WAITING TO GET ME? I--  
I'VE GOT A FUNNY FEELING  
ABOUT THAT THING,  
SAM!--



**ARGH! IT'S GOT  
ME, SAM! SAVE  
ME-- DON'T LET  
IT PULL ME DOWN--**

**HOLD ON TO  
ME, FRANK!  
DON'T GIVE IN  
-- FIGHT IT!**



BUT WHAT USE WERE MORTAL STRUGGLES--  
AGAINST A **SUPERNATURAL POWER?**

NO, FRANK!--  
DON'T LET GO  
OF ME! DON'T--

CAN'T--FIGHT ANY  
MORE! GOING--  
DOWN! OH-HHH!



THEN--AS SAM STARED IN SHOCK AT THE  
STREAM OF TINY AIR BUBBLES THAT MARKED  
HIS FRIEND'S END--

AHOY THERE!  
WE'LL HAVE YOU SAFE  
ABOARD IN A JIFFY!  
WHAT HAPPENED?

DON'T ASK QUESTIONS!  
JUST GET US OUT OF  
HERE **BEFORE THAT  
THING COMES  
BACK!**



IT--IT WAS AN  
OCTOPUS--A GIANT  
SQUID SUCH AS I'VE  
NEVER SEEN! IT UP-  
SET THE BOAT--  
DRAGGED MY FRIEND  
DOWN--

YOU FOLKS MUST HAVE  
BEEN **SEEING THINGS!**  
THERE AREN'T ANY O!  
THOSE THINGS WITHIN!  
A HUNDRED MILES O!  
THESE WATERS!



LATER--ASHORE--

YER BACK,  
MISTER--AND  
SAFE! TELL  
ME--DO YE  
REGRET THE  
PAYMENT YE  
MADE?

NO, BUT--  
BUT THERE'S  
SOMETHING I'VE  
GOT TO **SEE!**  
THE FACE YOU  
PUT ON THE  
STATUE AFTER  
YOU REMOVED  
MINE--I--I'VE  
GOT TO SEE  
IT!



AH, YES--**THE FACES ON  
THE STATUE!** EVERY DAY  
I MODEL NEW FACES IN THE  
SAND! SOME, LIKE YOU, PAY  
ME TO CHANGE THEM! BUT  
OTHERS SCOFF, LAUGH, CALL  
ME A CRAZY OLD WOMAN!  
I'LL LET YOU LOOK--**AND  
JUDGE FOR YOURSELF!**



OH, GOOD HEAVENS, IT--IT'S  
**FRANK!** SO THE FACES IN  
THE SAND TELL THE **TRUTH--**  
AND I'D HAVE BEEN AT THE  
BOTTOM OF THE OCEAN  
INSTEAD OF HIM--IF I  
HADN'T PAID TO HAVE THE  
FACE **CHANGED!**



THE END



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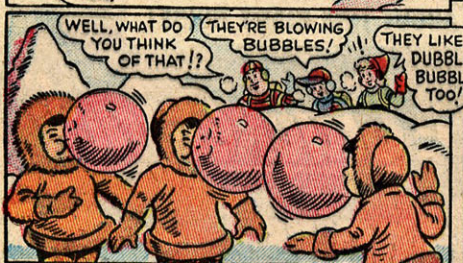
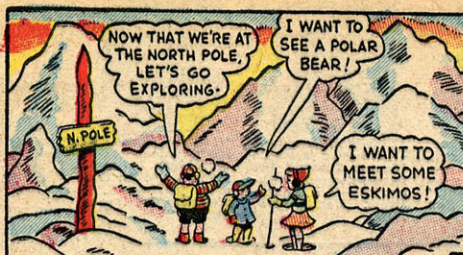
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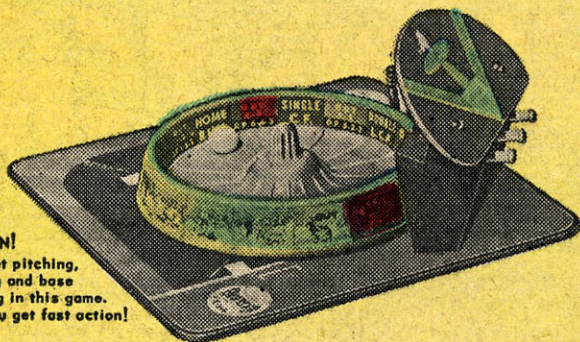
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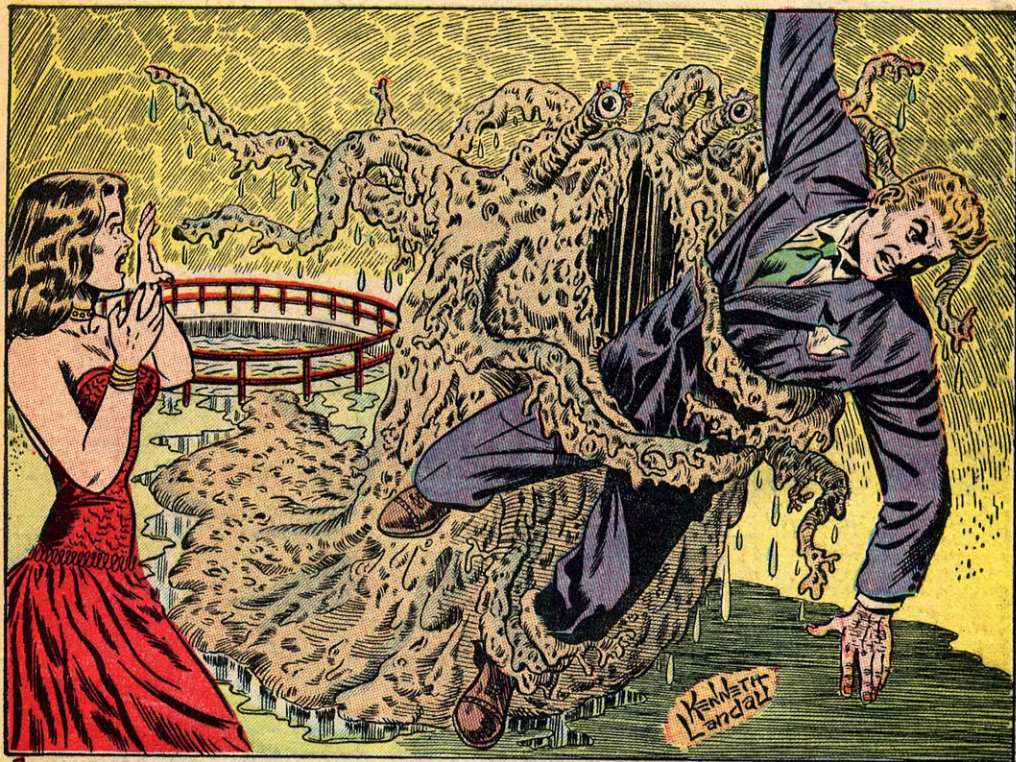
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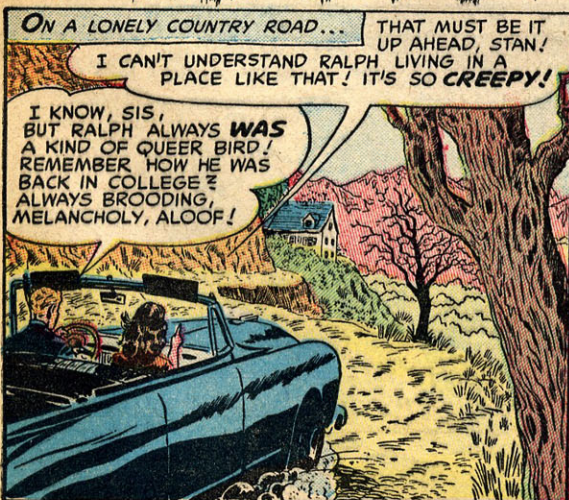
Name \_\_\_\_\_  
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You're at bat. It's ninth  
inning, one run ties, two runs  
win. You have men on 1st and  
3rd. It's one out, 2 strikes  
and 3 balls on the batter. What  
would you do? Have runner on  
1st steal? Try a double-steal?  
A hit and run? Or wait until the  
pitcher for a base on balls?  
With this real action game you  
can take your choice - and  
make any of these plays!



IT CAME FROM THE PRIMEVAL OOZE... A THING OF AWFUL HORROR! IT WAS NEITHER ANIMAL NOR PLANT, AND YET IT LIVED, STRUGGLED FOR EXISTENCE AND THEY CALLED IT BY THE ONE NAME THAT SUITED IT THE BEST...

# THE MONSTER!



ON A LONELY COUNTRY ROAD...

THAT MUST BE IT UP AHEAD, STAN!

I CAN'T UNDERSTAND RALPH LIVING IN A PLACE LIKE THAT! IT'S SO CREEPY!

I KNOW, SIS, BUT RALPH ALWAYS WAS A KIND OF QUEER BIRD! REMEMBER HOW HE WAS BACK IN COLLEGE? ALWAYS BROODING, MELANCHOLY, ALOOF!

YES... AND NOW, AFTER EIGHT YEARS, HE SUDDENLY GETS IN TOUCH WITH US! HE CERTAINLY SOUNDED URGENT!

TYPICAL OF RALPH, I'D SAY! BRILLIANT, CAPABLE, BUT ERRATIC AS THEY COME! ANYWAY, WE'LL SOON KNOW WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT!



**S**HORTLY AFTERWARDS, AS THEIR OLD FRIEND ANSWERED THEIR KNOCK...

GOOD TO SEE YOU BOTH-- I'VE BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS MOMENT! I'VE **BIG NEWS** FOR YOU--



I CAN SEE YOU'RE PUZZLED! I KNOW I'VE CHANGED SOME, BUT I'VE BEEN WORKING HARD! YOU BOTH REMEMBER THAT EXPERIMENTAL RESEARCH WAS MY ONLY LOVE! WELL, I'VE FINALLY HIT IT! THE SECRET OF **LIFE ITSELF!**

YOU MEAN YOU'VE--



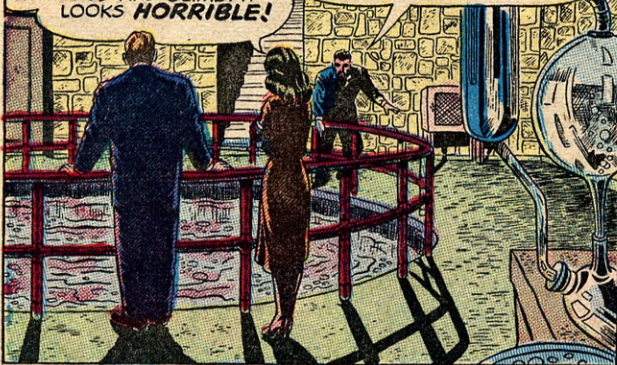
**EXACTLY! I HAVE CREATED LIFE!** IT'S SIMPLE, OF COURSE-- CRUDE-- BUT IT'S A BEGINNING! THAT IS WHY I HAVE ASKED YOU BOTH HERE--MY OLD FRIENDS! I WANTED YOU TO BE THE FIRST TO SEE MY TRIUMPH!



**DUMFOUNDED, THE PAIR FOLLOWED THE SCIENTIST INTO AN ADJOINING ROOM...**

IT'S SOME KIND OF A TANK, AND THE BOTTOM SEEMS TO BE COVERED WITH MUD AND SLIME! IT LOOKS **HORRIBLE!**

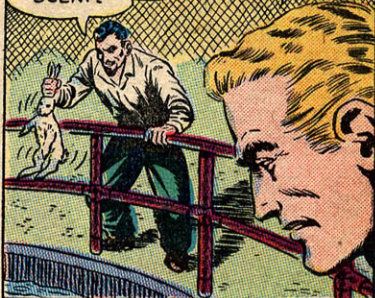
LIFE BEGAN IN PRIMEVAL OOZE, MY DEAR! NOW WATCH CLOSELY! IN A MOMENT, YOU WILL **SEE FOR YOURSELF!**



REMOVING A RABBIT FROM A NEARBY CAGE, RALPH DANGLED IT OVER THE TANK...

MY LITTLE PET HAS TAKEN A FANCY TO **LIVE FOOD!** IN A MOMENT, IT WILL CATCH THE SCENT!

**SOMETHING'S HAPPENING! THE MUD IS STIRRING!**



GOOD HEAVENS! STAN--LOOK!

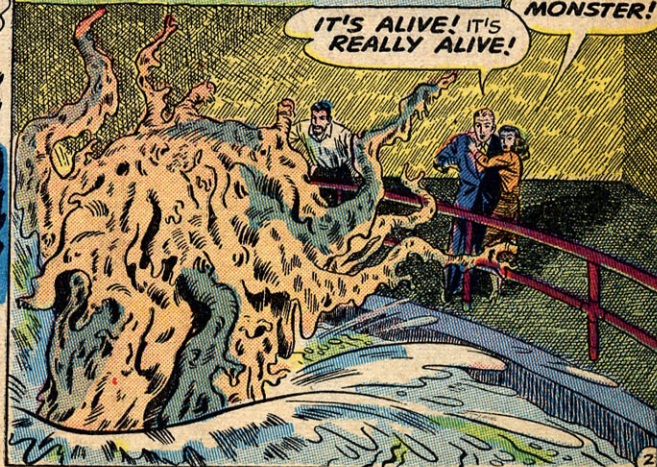
**BACK, LIZ...BACK!**



AND THEN... IN ALL ITS WRITHING HORROR...

**IT'S ALIVE! IT'S REALLY ALIVE!**

IT--IT'S A **MONSTER!**





HERE, MY PET! A LITTLE SOMETHING TO GROW ON!

AND WHEN THE AWFUL MASS WITHDREW INTO THE SLIMY DEPTHS BELOW...

WELL, YOU'VE SEEN IT! THE FIRST LIFE EVER PRODUCED BY MAN! THIS IS BUT THE **BEGINNING!** TODAY, IT IS A FLESHY PROTOPLASMIC BLOB... TOMORROW, WHO KNOWS? ONLY THE FUTURE WILL TELL ITS STORY!

WHAT ARE YOU DRIVING AT, RALPH?

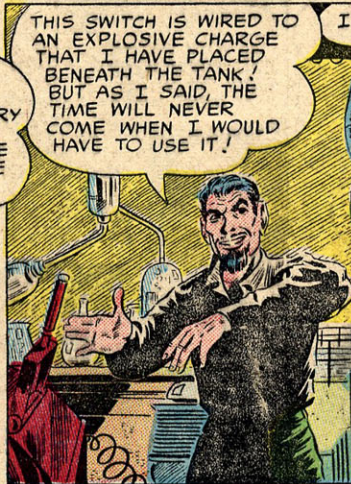
SIMPLY **THIS!** RECENTLY, MY LITTLE COMPANION HAS SHOWN A REMARKABLE TALENT! IT IS RAPIDLY ACQUIRING THE CHARACTERISTICS OF ITS ANIMAL DIET! IT HAS **NERVE CENTERS...A BLOOD STREAM!** PERHAPS IN TIME, IT WILL EVEN HAVE A **BRAIN!**

A BRAIN!



YOU'VE GOT TO LISTEN TO ME, RALPH! WHAT YOU HAVE DONE IS A GREAT SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENT, BUT WHERE WILL IT END? WHAT IF THIS THING DEVELOPS A BRAIN, BREAKS LOOSE, RUNS AMOK? WHAT **THEN?**

I HAVE TAKEN PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES, SHOULD THE NEED ARISE... BUT I DON'T THINK IT WILL!



THIS SWITCH IS WIRED TO AN EXPLOSIVE CHARGE THAT I HAVE PLACED BENEATH THE TANK! BUT AS I SAID, THE TIME WILL NEVER COME WHEN I WOULD HAVE TO USE IT!

I **DISAGREE**, RALPH!



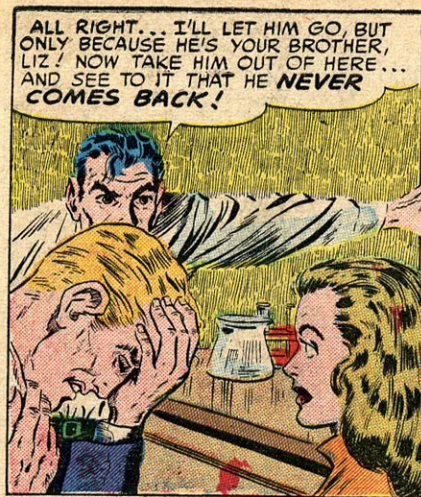
THE TIME **HAS** COME! IT SHOULD BE DESTROYED **NOW**... WHILE THERE IS STILL TIME... BEFORE IT GETS OUT OF CONTROL!

**DESTROY MY CREATION!** YOU **DARE** TELL ME THAT?



I INVITED YOU HERE SO THAT YOU COULD **SHARE** IN MY TRIUMPH! I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER! YOU'RE ENVOUS OF MY SUCCESS! I OUGHT TO **KILL** YOU!

**RALPH... LET HIM GO PLEASE!**

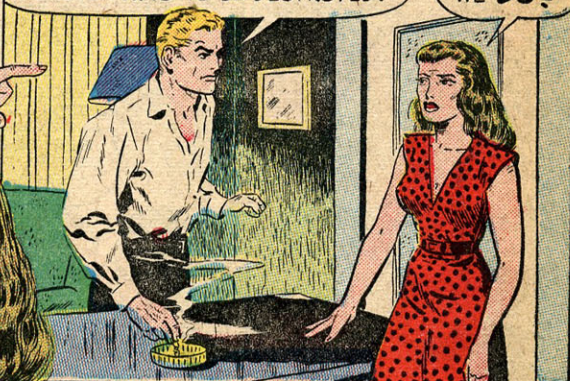


ALL RIGHT... I'LL LET HIM GO, BUT ONLY BECAUSE HE'S YOUR BROTHER, LIZ! NOW TAKE HIM OUT OF HERE... AND SEE TO IT THAT HE **NEVER COMES BACK!**

**LATER, WHEN THE PAIR RETURNED HOME...**

HE'S A **MADMAN**, SIS! THIS DISCOVERY OF HIS HAS UNBALANCED HIS MIND--AND YET WE CAN'T LET IT GO ON! THAT MONSTER **HAS** TO BE DESTROYED!

BUT **HOW**, STAN? WHAT CAN WE **DO?**



WE'VE GOT TO GET HIM AWAY FROM THE HOUSE, SO THAT DYNAMITE CHARGE CAN BE SET OFF! RALPH ALWAYS LIKED YOU, LIZ! DO YOU THINK YOU COULD LURE HIM FROM HIS LABORATORY--AND GIVE ME THE TIME I'LL NEED?

I--I'LL TRY!

**MOMENTS LATER--**

SO YOUR PHONE CALL **WORKED?** HOW SOON DO YOU MEET HIM?

AT EIGHT TONIGHT!

HE WAS RELUCTANT TO SEE ME AT FIRST, BUT FLATTERY DID THE TRICK! I TOLD HIM THAT I DIS-AGREED WITH YOU-- THAT I THOUGHT HIM THE GREATEST SCIENTIST OF THE AGE! IT'S ONLY A DINNER DATE, SO YOU'LL HAVE TO HURRY!



**WHEN STAN ARRIVED AT THE SCIENTIST'S HOUSE...**

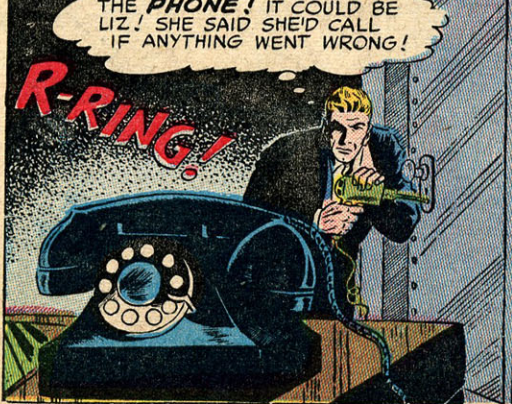
SO FAR, SO GOOD! NOW TO SLIP INSIDE AND GO TO WORK ON THAT LAB DOOR! I'VE GOT A FEELING IT'S GOING TO BE A LOT TOUGHER THAN THIS WINDOW!



**INSIDE, STAN'S HUNCH PROVED CORRECT... AND WHEN AN HOUR PASSED...**

ONLY A LITTLE MORE AND-- THE **PHONE!** IT COULD BE LIZ! SHE SAID SHE'D CALL IF ANYTHING WENT WRONG!

**R-RING!**

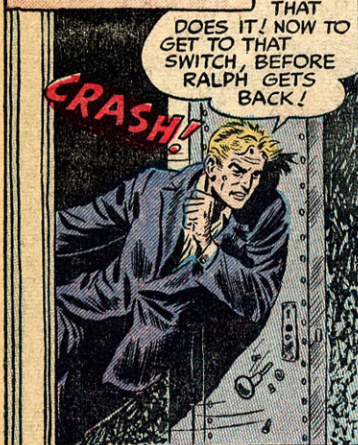


YOU'LL HAVE TO GET OUT OF THERE, STAN! HE WAS JUMPY ALL THROUGH DINNER! I TRIED HOLDING HIM, BUT HE SAID HE HAD TO GET BACK! HE MAY BE THERE ANY MINUTE!

THANKS FOR CALLING, LIZ! I'LL BE THROUGH IN A JIFFY!



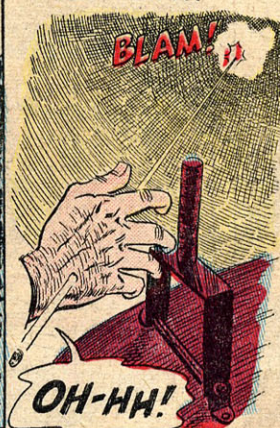
THEN, AS THE LOCK GAVE UNDER STAN'S PRESSURE...



THAT DOES IT! NOW TO GET TO THAT SWITCH, BEFORE RALPH GETS BACK!

**CRASH!**

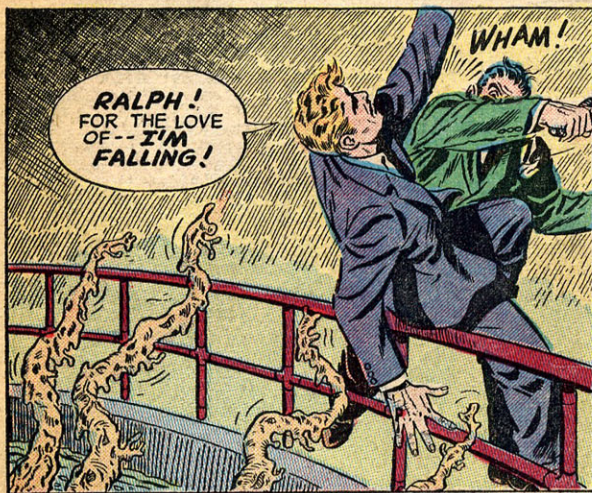
BUT AS HE REACHED FOR THE FATEFUL MECHANISM...



**BLAM!**

**OH-HH!**

I WARNED YOU TO STAY AWAY FROM HERE, BUT YOU WOULDN'T LISTEN! THIS TIME, I'M GOING TO KILL YOU!



RALPH! FOR THE LOVE OF-- I'M FALLING!

**WHAM!**



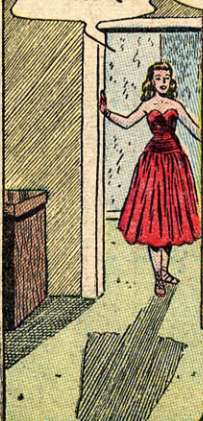
**YAGHHHHHH!**

FASCINATED, THE DEMENTED SCIENTIST STARED DOWN AT THE UNEQUAL STRUGGLE... THE LONG MINUTES PASSED...



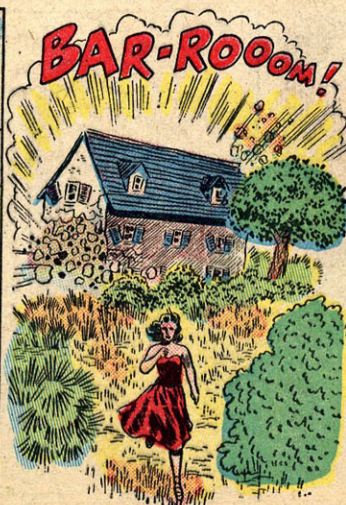
IT'S OVER WITH! HE'S GONE... NOT A TRACE REMAINS!

STAN! W-WHERE IS HE?



SO YOU WERE IN ON THIS WITH HIM! YOU PLOTTED IT TOGETHER, AND SO YOU WILL DIE JUST AS HE DID!





**THE END**

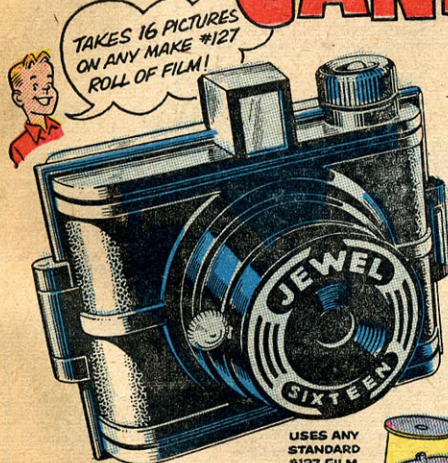
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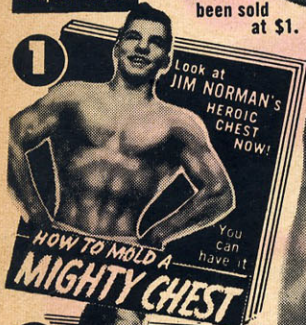
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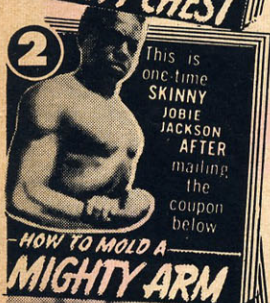
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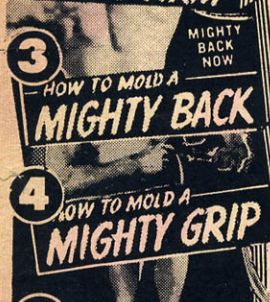
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